

DATE-TIME GROUP

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204

~~ITEM NO: 1~~

DATE: 17 OCTOBER 1974

SUBJECT: CHINESE OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON SUCCESSION TO CHOU EN-LAI

REF :

25X1A2g

25X1X6A

5X1X6 A CHINESE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER HAS CONFIRMED

SOME OF THE SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BY CHINESE LEADERS EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT DECEASED PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING HAD BEEN SELECTED BY CHOU EN-LAI TO SUCCEED HIM AS PREMIER, AND THAT THE CHOICE WAS ENDORSED BY A HIGH LEVEL PARTY MEETING LAST SPRING. TENG HAS SAID NOW TO BE IN CHARGE OF DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND TO OVERSHADOW THE OTHER DECEASED PREMIER WHO HAS BEEN HELPING TO FILL CHOU'S SHOES, LI HSIEN-NIEN.

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THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT TENG'S STATUS WOULD BE MADE OFFICIAL AT A NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE WHICH MIGHT BE CONVENED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT CHOU REMAINED THE NUMBER TWO LEADER IN THE PARTY AND, THEREFORE, IN CHINA.

25X1X6

THIS ACCOUNT, COMING FROM A VETERAN CIVILIAN BUREAUCRAT

25X1X6

GENERALLY CONFIRMS EARLIER REPORTING ON SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS. IT IS THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE INDICATION THAT TENG HAS MOVED AHEAD OF LI. BOTH ARE "MODERATES" AND HAD SHARED OFFICIAL DUTIES, BUT IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT TENG WOULD EMERGE AS CHOU'S SUCCESSOR.

THE CHINESE HAVE APPARENTLY DECIDED TO SURFACE THIS ARRANGEMENT UNOFFICIALLY. THE CHINESE COUNSELLOR OF EMBASSY IN PARIS TOLD A

25X1X6

AT A CHINESE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION ON OCTOBER 1 THAT TENG WAS SLATED TO REPLACE CHOU.

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25X1A9a

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DATE: 17 OCT 74

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